

switch (not shown) to move carriage **100** from the viewing position **152** to the blocking position **154**. Crank arm **156** lifts L-shaped platform **124** as described above until adhesive pad **150** engages lens blank **42**, and, at step **234**, the lens block **148** with lens blank **42** adhered thereto is removed from the chuck **144** on lens alignment and blocking device **10**. The process is repeated if additional lenses are to be blocked.

[0051] The subject invention has been described herein in terms of a preferred embodiment, it being understood that numerous modifications and additions to this embodiment will become apparent to those skilled in the art after a reading of the foregoing description. It is intended that all such modifications and additions comprise a part of this invention to the extent that they come within the scope of the several claims appended hereto.

We claim:

1. An alignment device, comprising;
  - a light source;
  - a first mirror;
  - a stage disposed between said light source and said first mirror for supporting an object such that an image of an object supported on the stage is reflected by said first mirror;
  - a screen;
  - a processor for generating an image on said screen; and
  - at least one second mirror arranged to receive the image reflected from said first mirror and project the image of an object on the stage against said screen;
  - whereby said generated image on said screen is visible with the image of the object on the stage projected against said screen.
2. The device of claim 1, further including at least one lens located between said first mirror and said at least one second mirror.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein said at least one lens inverts the image passing through said at least one lens.
4. The device of claim 2, including a third mirror interposed between said first mirror and said at least one lens for directing an image of an object from said first mirror toward said at least one lens.
5. The device of claim 4, wherein said first mirror, said third mirror, said at least one second mirror and said at least one lens are arranged to direct a non-inverted image of an object on said stage toward said screen.
6. The device of claim 1, wherein said light source comprises a first lamp and a second lamp mounted on a rotatable support frame within a housing.
7. The device of claim 6 including a power source and a selector for selectively moving said first or second lamps into electrical engagement with said power source.
8. The device of claim 7, wherein said selector comprises a shaft connected to said rotatable support frame.
9. The device of claim 1, further including a carriage shiftable between first and second positions with respect to said stage, said first mirror being mounted on said carriage.
10. The device of claim 9, wherein said carriage is biased toward said first position.
11. The device of claim 10, including an actuator for shifting said carriage between said first and second positions.
12. The device of claim 11, wherein said stage has an opening and a block is mounted on said carriage, said block being aligned with said opening when said carriage is in said first position.
13. The device of claim 12, wherein said block is movable between raised and lowered positions with respect to said carriage.
14. The device of claim 13, wherein said block is moved between said raised and lowered positions by said actuator.
15. The device of claim 14, wherein said actuator comprises a motor and a crank arm connected to said motor for rotation therewith.
16. The device of claim 1, wherein said screen comprises a liquid crystal display including a layer of liquid crystal material supported in a first plane and a rear surface parallel to said first plane, wherein the image of an object on the stage is projected onto said rear surface.
17. The device of claim 16, wherein said screen is at least partially translucent.
18. The device of claim 16, wherein said rear surface is spaced less than about 0.5 mm from said first plane.
19. The device of claim 16, wherein said screen has a first portion with a backlight thereon.
20. The device of claim 16, wherein the image of an object on said stage is projected onto said screen at a second position not having a backlight.
21. The device of claim 1, wherein said processor includes a memory storing data including a plurality of alignment images.
22. The device of claim 21 wherein said memory stores a plurality of lens shapes.
23. A lens blocking device comprising;
  - a frame;
  - a light source mounted on said frame;
  - a carriage having a first end and a second end mounted on said frame for sliding movement between first and second positions;
  - a first mirror mounted on said carriage first end;
  - a lens block holder mounted on said carriage second end and shiftable between third and fourth positions with respect to said carriage;
  - a stage disposed between said light source and said carriage, and including an opening, for supporting an object;
  - an at least partially translucent screen operably connected to said support frame generating a display image;
  - at least one second mirror reflecting an image of an object on said stage from said first mirror, when said carriage is in said second position, onto said screen; and
  - an actuator operably connected to said carriage, said actuator shifting said carriage between said first position and said second position and shifting said block holder between said third position and said fourth position;